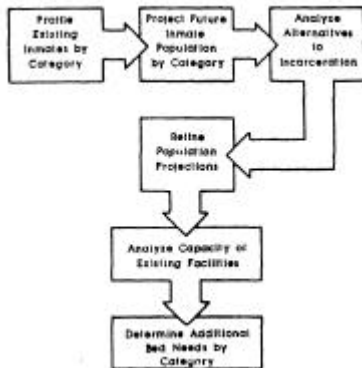


### What Is A Needs Assessment Study?

#### Needs Assessment



A Needs Assessment Study is a systematic process that results in:

g inmates by category (e.g. pre-sentenced females, maximum d males).

projections for between 5 and 20 years, by category.

rnatives to incarceration, both for presentenced and sentenced educating detention beds).

ulation projections based on the projections and alternatives.

ability of existing detention facilities to meet future needs.

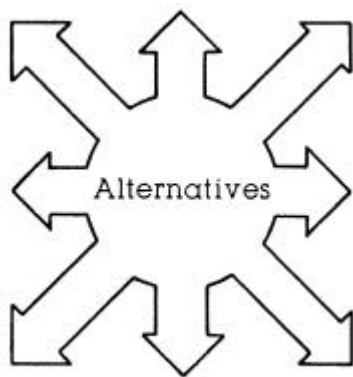
- Based on all of the above, a determination of how many additional beds will be needed, by category, for future years.

The Needs Assessment phase of a project provides one of the primary opportunities for a county to control costs, both construction and operational. If your county is serious about limiting costs, now is the time to take a hard look at just who needs to be locked up.

Unavoidably, your county will be charged with locking up a sizable inmate population - those individuals sentenced- to serve time in a county jail or juvenile hall/ranch.

### Seriously Consider Alternatives

Alternatives for pre-sentenced inmates that could reduce your space/cost requirements include:



use of release on own recognizance (O.R.) for people charged with well as low-risk felonies, including a supervised O.R. program.

nts.

ve bail for people facing multiple charges.

ion making process regarding whether or not to press charges, eration of:

Law enforcement agency preparation.  
Case forwarding.  
District attorney's charging decision.

- Accelerate arraignment on weekends and/or evenings.
- Provide staff at booking facilities in the evening and on weekends to facilitate pretrial release decision-making.
- Expand the use of citation release.
- Divert public inebriates (those charged solely with public inebriation) to county hospitals and public or private treatment programs.
- Broaden the use of Penal Code 1000.6 (special proceedings in cases involving domestic violence) and Penal Code 1001 (misdemeanor diversion).
- Expedite Penal Code 849 (release from custody) decisions by assigning deputy district attorneys to the jail to review charges.

### Consider Expediting Court Processing

Means to Expedite Court Processing

- Provide arraignment immediately following preliminary hearings.
- Expedite pre-sentence investigations.
- Limit continuances in criminal cases.

- Accelerate the trial calendar for in-custody defendants.
- Provide witness assistance programs to assure readiness and presence for giving testimony.

### **Explore Sentencing Alternatives**

#### Alternative Sentencing Examples

- County parole.
- Intensive probation.
- Restitution.
- Community service.
- Weekend sentences.
- Work/educational furloughs.
- Community-based substance abuse programs.
- Community-based mental health programs.
- Home detention.
- Work in lieu of incarceration.

First, your county must project populations, decide if there are acceptable ways to reduce bed needs (initial and life-cycle costs), and measure the impact of implementing them. Then it is time to assess how many of the needs can be met by your existing system, at present and into the future.

You must learn:

What are the most appropriate uses for your existing jail(s), both "as is" and with renovations?

What needs to be done to the building(s) for the existing jail(s) to:

1. Be structurally sound.
2. Be safe and secure (from fires, earthquakes, assaults, escapes).

3. Meet all applicable codes and standards, including Titles 15 and 24 CCR.
4. Be consistent with your county's philosophies and goals (e.g., for comfort, humane conditions and supervision).
5. Provide adequate space for all needed and wanted programs and services.
6. Extend its useful life by 10 years or even 20 years.



What  
with a

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What are the annual staffing and utility costs of the above needs, compared with those for new facilities?

Armed with data regarding current and future needs and costs, your county can develop and compare facility development alternatives in the next step, Master Planning.

## Number of Beds

The cost per jail bed ranges from a rock-bottom low of \$20,000 to more than \$100,000. Most single-celled, medium to maximum security jails with all of the basic services and programs run between \$50,000 and \$80,000 per bed (assuming no double-ceiling). Renovating can

cost as little as several thousand dollars per bed or as much as or even considerably more than new construction, depending on what is done.

### **Types of Beds**

The types of beds to be built are a major cost consideration. In general, the higher the security level, the higher the initial costs. So, if your county already has maximum security beds and all types of beds are needed, you may wish to focus on medium or minimum security beds and buy more of them.

### **Staffing**

The biggest cost factor is staffing. It is determined by layout and configuration, as well as county goals, philosophies and means of operation. For example, a jail having a staff/inmate ratio of 1 to 4 and offering an average annual salary and benefit package of \$50,000 would cost \$12,500 per bed per year to run (excluding food, utilities, supplies, clothing, etc.). Over 30 years, that cost would total \$375,000 per bed, far exceeding the initial cost per bed. Juvenile halls and ranches have mandated child supervision ratios that are listed in Title 15, Section 1321, CCR.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

To make sure your county is ready to move on to master planning, answer the following questions:

1. Are the Advisory Committee and the Board of Supervisors comfortable with the population projections?

☐ Yes☐ No☐ Not Sure

2. Do the projections indicate expected populations for all subcategories (pre-sentenced females, mentally ill, etc.)?

☐ Yes☐ No☐ Not Sure

3. Have **all** pre-sentenced alternatives to incarceration and means of reducing detention time been seriously considered (such as release on own recognizance)? Have the most feasible ones been studied?

☐ Yes☐ No☐ Not Sure

4. Have **all** sentenced alternatives to incarceration and means of reducing jail time been seriously considered (such as intensive probation)? Have the most feasible ones been studied?

☐ Yes☐ No☐ Not Sure

5. Have all existing county detention facility been thoroughly studied regarding their most efficient and effective use for the future.

☐ Yes☐ No☐ Not Sure

6. Would you bet money that all of the beds identified as needed in the future will indeed be needed? (Your county will be betting on it.)

☐ Yes☐ No☐ Not Sure